would agre t we had also supposed ons, or expect him, as an English-so. And still more confident were we, that no one in this country would make then the ground and occasion for a public attack, a can Review, advertising itself the exponent and champion of the Whig party, devotes three pages to pure blackguardism founded upon this single poem of Mr. James! We trust that no one, a feeling of any respectable portion of the American people, or of any party or of any section."

THE NATIONAL ERA.

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 42, 1850.

OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

As the year is beginning to draw to a close, we shall soon commence the work of sending out cir culars and renewing subscribers. We now merely tion to it, so that they mur he or come to the resolution that there must be no fail-

THE OUTSIDE_OF THE ERA.

The two communications on our outside pages concerning the Fugitive Law, will serve to show our readers at the South the state of feeling at the North. We have other communications of a like character on hand, but those two will

From the published opinion of Mr. Crittenden, the Attorney General, it will be seen what can be said in defence of the law.

A letter from Mr. Yancy, formerly a membe of Congress from Alabama, is a pretty fair specimen of the spirit and policy of the Disunionists

SOMETHING IN STORE.

Next week we shall publish a story, called . # Agatha, of the Victor of Education," by

The week after, we shall commence the publination of an original story by Mrs Southworth, entitled "Hickory, Plant, on the Outcase; A Romance of Real Life " It will run through three or four numbers.

REDUCTION AND REFORM IN THE NAVAL SERVICE.

Reduction and Reform are hard to be effected in any branch of the public service. Men in office seem to think they possess an inalicnable right to be supported by the Government, and are always pleading important services against every project of retrenchment. Especially is this the case in the Army and Navy, whose officers, no matter how little they have to do, are always inclined to magnify their own importance, and press their claims upon the consideration of the Government. A proposition to reduce their number, or change the usages to which they have been accustomed, will always encounter an opposition, stimulated and strengthened by the combined influences of pride, prejudice, and self-interest. Or suppose all this overcome, still Congress may legislate one way, and the Executive work another. The mere absence of cordial and active cooperation the wisest schemes of reformation.

In obedience to the People's will, Cong in the Navy -- an innovation upon its usages his approval to them, in the belief that they " prewhich can be sustained only by the sympathetic and energetic action of the Secretary of the Navy. It was a great step in the way of reform, but it will not do to stop here. The whole disciplinary code of the Navy ought to be carefully revised, thority of officers should be determined, and modes | Convention of discipline clearly indicated.

People are beginning to inquire whether there may not be a reduction of our Naval Force, and whether, after all, it is precisely the kind of material needed at this age of the world.

Our Naval establishment costs nine or ten millions of dollars annually : the Civil list, embracing all expenditures for Congress, for the President and Executive Departments, for the Judiciary, and for Foreign Intercourse, is a little over three millions per annum, not a third of the cost of the We can see the labor performed by the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial Departments, and by the Diplomatic Corps, They make and execute our laws-maintain peace and order-take care of our foreign interests They earn what they receive. But, what are the labors of the Navy, with its six squadrons, its eight thousand men, its superfluous midshipmen, worth three times as much as we pay those who carry on the affairs of the Republic ? Protecting our Commerce? It is only at long intervals that our men-of-war are seen at ports most frequented by our merchantmen. In the event of a sudden war with Great Britain, our commerce would be swept from the seas by the war steamers of that Power, before a Seventy-four sailing ship on our coast could get ready for a cruise.

"Take any one of our squadrons," says Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee, in a speech, (for a copy of which we are indebted to his politeness,) "and inquire what it has been doing for a year past * * We have had one in that sea, (the Mediterranean,) no less than four frigates, with sever sloops-of-war, all employing some twenty-five hun What have they been doing ! Most of the time, lying at anchor at Spezzan, at Bahia or at Mahon. Our commerce in the Mediter an is quite small, although it is increasin; We have some trade with Marseilles, Trieste, and Smyrna. But it is doubtful whether the two-and-n-half millions required to support this squadron, is not more than the whole profit derived from our commerce in the Mediterranean. * But, what has that squadron been doing? Dur ing the whole of last winter, Commodore Morliving at Naples, and I presume he did not see his ship for several months. As for the ships themselves, they were quietly moored in their respect ive harbors, and it is probable the only American than they saw for months together, were those of the store-ships which carried them provisions. In the meantime, the officers, by turns, were living in the cities, and enjoying themselves in their oners on board, with occasional liberty to get drunk on shore. * When one of our vessels sets sail for a three-years' cruise, as it is called, she drops her anchor at Rio, at Callao, or at Canton, and there she frequently remains for six or twelve months in a state of perfect inactivity. Instances have occurred of vessels losing their anchors by the actual rotting or rusting o their cables; and it is an old sareasm, which suppose is only true in a metaphorical sense, that our ships ground upon the beef bones thrown overboard by their crews

The effect of this inactive, stupid life upon the men is deplorable. With nothing to do, no employment or amusement for soul or body, without aim or end, what is there to prevent them from becoming stupid, imbruted, licentious, and mutinous?

It is time there should be a reform. The People cannot much longer tolerate the idea of paying as a Democrat, though he is an old abolitionis ten millions of dollars annually for such services as these. Fewer officers, and these kept constantly employed; fewer midshipmen; fewer men, and they better paid; fewer ships, and they better adapted to the wants of our commerce-will cost less money, and do more service, and generate far less corruption, than our present Navy.

Mr. Stanton, in the excellent speech to which we have referred, has taken ground on this subject of Naval Reform, and we hope he will not desist from his efforts till the attention of Congress be fully drawn to its necessity. The amendment ed a part of his scheme of reduction." It was

divided into two squadrons, to be known as the quadron of the Atlantic, and the Squadron of he Pacific. The former to have its headquarters o the waters of the United States on the Atlant and to cruise in the North and South Atlantic, in Mediterranean, and the Gulf of Mexico; the latter to have its headquarters at San Francisco, and to cruise in the North and South Pacific, in the China Seas and the Indian Ocean: Provided, That so long as existing treaties require it, a force Be it further engeted. That after the expiration the present fiscal year, the number of petty ofers, seamen, ordinary seamen, landsmen, and

eys, employed at any one time in the Navy, shall of exceed five thousand." But, he would go further than this, and gradually substitute war steamers, for our present vessels of war, and adapt them to the peaceful pur-

"To maintain a very large Navy of steamers to cruise about in time of peace, will be an expensive outlay which will accomplish little good. To build the ships or prepare the material, and let them rot at your navy yards before the necessi for using them arises, will evince quite as little Is there not some plan by which this seven and a half, or nine and a half millions of dollars, can be made to contribute to some wise and beneficent purpose, at the same time that it insures the defeace of one country and the pre-tection of our commerce! Can it not be made to

I excitance to an example at the same ing off, but, on the contrary, an increase of our commercial and naval marine than there has heretofore been, and that with signal advantage to both? I think, sir, we have already answered heretofore established by this Government, with important provision for their incorporation into the Navy, in case of emergency. I am pre-pared to defend this policy. I think it is wise, efficient, and economical. I believe it is in accord-ance with the spirit and progress of the age, and that the American people will demand its adop-tion and extension whenever they shall fully un-

> It is to be regretted that the Department of the Navy has not been oftener filled by men of broad views, independent judgment, and enterprising energy-men, imbued with the spirit of progress, able to comprehend the bearings of modern im provements in the arts and sciences on their branch of the public service, and to innovate wisely and without fear. As it is the Secretary of the Navy seems to imagine he has nothing to do but to go according to precedent, to stand in the old ways, to maintain usages, which the age has outgrown, and to defer always to the judgment of "the Commodore." If there is to be any improvement in the Navy, the suggestion and impulse must come from the representatives of the

LETTER FROM HON, WASHINGTON HUNT-THE WASHINGTON UNION.

As a part of the history of the times, we publish a correspondence between Mr. Granger, on behalf of the seceding Whigs of New York, and Mr. Hunt, the gubernatorial candidate of the Whigs of that State.

The letter of the former evinces an inclination to support the regular nomination, and that of the latter is couched in such terms as must furnish an excuse for its indulgence.

Mr. Granger desires to know whether Mr. Hunt, in accepting the nomination of the Syracuse Convention, meant to approve of its resolutions, as expressing more truly the sentiments of the Whigs of New York than those reported by Mr. Duer, but rejected.

Mr. Hunt does not reply to this inquiry, and will not undertake to say how far the two sets of encloses him a copy of the rejected resolutions, between the Departments, will render unavailing and asks his opinion of them, and his views of the subjects to which they refer. His answer is ex- permit nobody to occupy his place, that will be per) the organ of the Democracy of Hamilton upon return, it discharges the writ and restores relation to the resolutions of Mr. Duer, and cave sented common grounds of justice and modera tion upon which all Whigs might unite without an abandonment of principle" White approving abstains from expressing any opinion whatsoever and adapted to the new order of things. The au- of the resolutions adopted by the majority of the

We presume that this will be entirely satisfac But, not only is further reform needed, the tory to the seceding Whigs. True, he has ac cepted the nomination of the Syracuse Convention, but he regards the resolutions of the seceders as

a sound platform for the Party. He next endeavors to separate himself from the personalities involved in the dissensions of the Party. So far as the differences between the two sections of Whigs are personal-relating to Seward or Fillmore-they are unworthy attention Perfect freedom of opinion in respect to the comparative merits of these two gentlemen ought to

to touch upon the subjects to which the resolu tions refer. No word of crimination or reproach against Northern or Southern Whigs falls from his lips. It was not to be wondered at that diversity of opinion, in regard to the measures for the settlement of the Slavery Question prevailed; but this only called for the exercise of mutual toleration and forbearance. Representatives, differing as to the best means of terminating the controversy, deserved equal credit for rectitude and patrictism. He rejoices at the admission of Califor nia. In some respects, the Territorial bills, and the terms of the settlement of the Texas boundary, did not accord with his wishes or views; but he acquiesces in the decision of Congress-and the more cheerfully, because, in the confident hope that New Mexico, having already declared her aversion to Slavery, will, in due time, ask admission as a free State. He is opposed, and always shall be, to the extension of Slavery. This principle pervales the Northern mind-the South must not ask her to renounce it; but he hopes that there may be no future acquisitions of Territory. rendering the assertion of this principle necessary The abolition of the slave trade in the District of Columbia, he hails with pleasure; but, while recognising, to its full extent, the "constitutional obligation to return fugitive slaves," he deplores

the passage of the Fugitive bill. He says "I should be wanting in candor if I omitted to say that I deplored the passage of the Fugitive Slave law in its present form. Recognising, to the fullest extent, the constitutional obligation which it is intended to enforce, I regret the features of tation, but to make it more intense and universa could not have been well considered, and needs ential modifications. The summary operation of its provisions conflicts with all our notions of personal right and security derived from the comon law and recognised by every free consti

Whigs of New York cannot tolerate his antislavery opinions, they must be extremely squeamish. There is nothing in his letter to offend the taste of any Whig, Northern or Southern. If the Whigs of New York, who support him, concur in the views he expresses, it is difficult to see why they cannot work in the same Party with Clay and Crittenden, Bell and Mangum, Stanly and Gentry-aye, with Mr. Toombs him-

The Washington Union is dreadfully distressed at the idea of the seceding Whigs casting their votes for such a political heretic as Mr. Washing ton Hunt. It does not hesitate to claim Dr TOWNSHEND, member of Congress elect from Ohio and a stanch friend, by the way, of the National Era; or to rejoice over the realection of Messes. Carter, Cable, and Olds, from the same State, although they are all Wilmot Proviso men, and opponents of the Fugitive bill; but it is shocked alarmed at the possibility of Messrs. Duer and Granger voting for Washington Hunt, and thereby giving their sanction to the damnable heresy of the Proviso! It appeals to Southern Whigsit raves about the Union-it threatens Mr. Fill-

more. Hear our consistent neighbor "And yet, while we write, we have no doub

he proposed to the Naval Appropriation bill, con-

party.

Sollows:

But a part of his scheme of reduction. It was bollows:

What will the Southern Whigs say of this sudden countermarching? What if his friends in Utica should adopt Mr. Hunt, with his politieal sins upon his head? Far better would it have been for the tranquillity of the country, and for his own fame, if Mr. Fillmore had requested his friends in New York to stand up to the Union-to the principles on which the late adjustment has been effected-even if he had been sacrificed in the struggle. Mr. Fillmore scarcely knows how sensitive the South is on this excitable question, and how suspiciously they look upon every movement which seems to countervail the com-promise which has been adopted. At this very ent they are watching every step which is aken against the Fugitive Stave bill : and they will add this development about Mr. Hunt to the see the struggle which is now going on between the Secessionists and the Unionists? Does he not see the exertions which the friends of the Union

Oh dear! Why did not the Union advise its Hunker friends in New York to stand up to the Union, and black ball the three Barnburners upon their State ticket? Why did it not urge its friends in Wilmot's district to stand up to the principles upon which the late adjustment has een effected, and put their veto upon Mr. Grow, the friend and associate of Mr. Wilmot? Why did it not call upon its friends, in Mr. Root's district, Ohio, to have nothing to do with the Free Democracy and Norton S. Townshend, even if they had sacrificed themselves by that act of self-

It is delightful to see the disinterested zeal of the Its sensibilities are not at all shocked at the affiliation of Northern Democrats, with the "nameless vagabonds" whom it designates, sometimes as Abolitionists, sometimes as Free Soilers; but that its dear Whig friends at the North should be brought

into such society is very afflicting ! How profoundly cunning the Union is! Of course, running two Whig tickets in New York will be sure to promote the success of the Whig party, and will not be the least help in the world to the Union ticket of the Democracy of that

We are astonished at Mr. Fillmore that he has not requested his friends to run a separate ticket. as to give the Whigs of New York a chance for one member at least in Congress! The friendship of the editor of the Union for Mr. Fillmore is so disinterested and sagacious, we are surprised that he has not been invited to take a seat in his

THE SOUTHERN PRESS AND THE LAW.

We have already spoken of the refusal of the postmaster at Eufaula, Alabama, to deliver the National Era to a subscriber at that post office. It seems from the following account in the Enfanta Democrat, that the citizens of that town have resolved to sustain the postmaster in violating his oath of office.

"IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING. - Our highly es-"IMPORTANT PUBLIC MEETING.—Our highly esteemed postmaster, J. H. Danforth, Esq., having refused to deliver the National Era, an abolition sheet, from our post office, and Mr. Fitz Henry Warren, Second Assistant Postmaster General, having demanded of him an explanation, a very large meeting of the citizens of Eufaula was held on Saturday night last, in which resolutions were unanimously passed, sustaining Mr. Danforth, and declaring that in case of his removal for his nduct in this matter, no other, postmaster would permitted to take his place.
"The vote was first viva voce, when there was

not a single nay; and then, for the sake of greater solemnity, it was taken by calling on the ayes to , when every man instantly rose to his eet amid universal cheering

Well-when an officer of the United States refuses to discharge his duty, his superior should resolutions conflict with each other. Mr. Granger discharge him. As an honorable man, Mr. Dan the question upon the passage of this outrageous forth ought to resign. If he do not, he ought to be dismissed; and if the people at Eufaula will The Concount i Enquirer, (4 Cass Democratic paplicit: he was consulted before the Convention in equivalent to a request to have the mail discon- county, which has just returned David T. Disney and maintains the custody. In other words, the tinued to their post office-a request which we hope the Postmaster General will be polite enough ao grant. At all events, he is bound to see that his deputies do their duty as prescribed by act of Congress.

and fill their places with those who will.

The editors of the Southern Press, commenting n this case, take the following position :

" Now, we presume, there are laws in Alabama robibiting and punishing as criminal the circution of incendiary papers. The postmaster, as citizen of Alabama, is bound to obey the laws I the State. If he disobeys them, he is arrested and tried-if he disobeys the orders of the Postmaster General, he may be removed. The latter may think the law of Congress regulating the transmission of papers, supreme. The postmaster at Eufaula regards the police laws of the State as paramount—the rights they are intended to pro-tect being more important. We think he is corect being more important. rect. But the Postmaster General may think otherwise, and who is to decide? The question may go before the Supreme Court of the United States—but will the slaveholding States permit any Department of the Federal Government to tecide, as between them and it, on their respective powers in this case? This question brings us at once to another; and that is, whether there are any reserved rights, or powers of the States, with which the Federal Government, by any or ts Departments, cannot interfere. If not, what is the security of the slaveholding States in the present condition of Northern sentiment?"

The editors suppose that there are laws in Alabama, punishing as criminal the circulation of incendiary papers. Let us suppose that Massachusetts has a law, punishing as criminal the act of surrendering within her limits, without the verdict of a jury, any person claimed as a fugitive slave. To say the least, such a law would be just as constitutional as a law making it felony to deliver the National Era within the State of Alabama.

Let us apply, then, to the supposed case the easoning by which the Southern Press reaches the conclusion that the postmaster at Eufaula s bound by the State law, as against the Fede-

The Commissioner, as a citizen of Massachuetts, is bound to obey the laws of the State. If he disobey them, he is arrested and tried. If he disobey the orders of the President, he may e removed. The latter may think the law of Congress, regulating the reclamation of fugitives, supreme. The Commissioner at Boston regards rights they are intended to protect being more important. We think he is correct. But the President may think otherwise, and who is to decide? The question may go before the Supreme Court of the United States-but will the nonpowers of the States, with which the Federal Government by any of its Departments, cannot interfere. If not, what is the security of the nonslaveholding States in the present condition of

Southern sentiment? This is, simply, nullification-but he who pleads for it on one side of Mason and Dixon's line has no right to denounce it on the other. If the people of Alabama have a right to prohibit the the people of Massachusetts have a right to prohibit the delivery of an alleged fugitive, except Eufaula, as a citizen of Alabama, is bound by the law of his State, in opposition to the law of Congress, making it his duty to deliver all newspapers to subscribers at his post office, the Commisafter trial by a jury, in opposition to the law of leaves the great question of a man's liberty in tion his removal by the Postmaster General.

THE AGITATION AT THE NORTH.

While demagogues at the South are laboring with fell purpose, but in vain, to unite that section in measures of open resistance against the authority of the Federal Government, the whole North and West are flaming with an excitement which threatens fearful consequences-an excitement, not kindled, and not to be quenched by the arts of designing politicians. The agitation produced by the passage of the Fugitive Bill is deeper, more pervading, more pregnant with dangerous elements than that occasioned by the discussion of the Wilmot Proviso. The Union, with its usual infatuation, affects to believe that it is confined to "the free negroes and the abolitionists"-a horde of "nameless vagabonds" The Baltimore Clipper feels little concern about it-the people of the North may be indignant, but their indignation will pass away-it is from the South it apprehends peril to the Union

These journals do not know what they are talking about. The excitement of the Northern people is not the offspring of an exclusive sympathy with the black man. True, their humanity is pained by a law which strips the ignorant, proscribed colored man of all defence against the kidnapper; but the law has other aspects equally revolting to their feelings. It tramples upon certain great, time-honored guaranties of right. held sacred ever since the Magna Charta was wrung from the reluctant hands of royal authority. It encroaches upon State Sovereignty-

viction unknown to the Common Law-it places Union in behalf of the purity of the Whig party. the liberties of freemen at the mercy of ignorance, fraud, violence-it insults the people of the free States, by commanding them, whenever it may be required of them, to become catchpoles to the slave-hunter. "All good citizens"-so runs the act-"are hereby commanded to aid and assist in the prompt and efficient execution of this law, when ever their services may be required?

> No wonder that a law, so reckless of all guaranties of personal rights-so vindictive in its penalties -so despotic and insulting in its requisitions, should arouse bitter indignation, and a spirit of determined resistance at the North. The Washington Union will learn that sneers, and denunciations, and talk about the danger and the horror of civil war, are all thrown away. As well attempt to arrest the ravages of a fire on the prairies by whistling against it. The law must be repealed, or essentialy amended. There can be no mistake about this. The people of the North are already hunting up the names of the members who voted for the infamous act, which will cover its authors with an odium deeper than that which clings to those who supported the Alien and Sedition Laws. Withering are the execrations already heaped upon them. Here is a specimen from the Mahoning (Ohio) Index, a

Cass Democratic paper : "INFAROUS! INFAMOUS!!-The Fugitive Slave bill is not only one of the most, but the greatest diabolical outrage, as a law, that ever emanated from the hands of a legislative body, that professed to legislate for a free nation, or for a nation that ever professed to legislate for the masses, or to protect humanity, liberty, and the right. We, as one of the mass of the freemen of this slaveholding nation, pronounce the infamous act to be the most diabolical that could have been framed by an IMP out of the infernal regions of the sons of infamy—an act that was passed by the impious doughfaces of the North, and the sneaking, skulking, apostates from the cause of liberty, justice, equality and humanity, that have a harbor north of Mason's and Dixon's line. May each and every one who voted for, or skulked the question, upon the passage of this outrageous and abominable bill, receive the political, withering, blistering son and daughter that treads the soil of freedom "We publish in this week's paper the names of all from the free States who voted upon or skulked

to Congress, says:

"This law is creating the intensest excitement in all the principal cities of the West. It turns out as we have all along prequent, the abolition pa-vance abolitionism more than all the abolition pa-veen able to accomplish for the past ten years; that it will render slave property far less secure, and that the South will both in slaves and political influence. The South both in slaves and political influence. far less secure, and that the South wil was beside herself in asking for such a law and the North was stupid in conceding it. But let it -all things have their appointed mission, and this will not fail in achieving its work. Ten dollars to the judge if he decide against the fugitive, and five dollars if he decides in his favor Meanness unexampled-holding out a bribe

The Indiana Statesman, another Democratic pa

The Democrat is right-there are features in this bill which carry us back to the days of bar-barism, when might made right, and which stamp it as a disgrace to the age.

"While we would, in no possible manner encour age the slave to abscond from his master, and while we would interpose no obstacle to that owner's recapturing the fugitive and carrying him back to his home, we deny the right of these dep uty nigger-catchers to summon a whole community and put them in chase of the unfortunate slave. There was no necessity for the passage of such law, so insulting to the common sense and humanity of the North, and our surprise is that any man, in whose veins courses the blood of a freeman, could be found to vote for it. The law of 1793 was abundantly sufficient for the recapture of fugitives, and there was at least some show of humanity about it"

Even the New York Observer, the most conserve ative of all religious papers, and the least apt to take offence at the doings of slavery, is dissatisfied. It remarks:

"While the Fugitive Slave bill was before Congress, we warned our Southern brethren that a stringent law on this subject would only aggravate perpetuate anti-slavery excitement at North. Our prophecy is now in a fair way of being fulfilled; and we shall be agreeably disappointed if the subject is not introduced as a proinent one in the coming elections, and made to tell

powerfully on the results. "We do not believe that it will be as easy for a slaveholder to recover his slave under the nex law as under the old one.

Meantime, excited meetings are called all over the North all sects and parties being merged in the general uprising of the People.

We charge that the law is a Disunion m It had its origin with Messrs. Butler and Mason of the Senate both of whom are Disunionists the public laws of the State as paramount—the They knew that its features were revolting—that it would incense the People of the North, provoke resistance, and probably lead to outragesand Mr. Mason himself declared that he did not anticipate any good to the South from its passage But, in the face of all this, there was no measure slaveholding States permit any department of the they were so anxious to push through Congress Federal Government to decide as between them | That its passage would stir up ill blood, place the and it on their respective powers in this case? People of the North in a false position, and em-This question brings us at once to another, and bitter them against the South, was a recommendthat is, whether there are any reserved rights or ation, rather than a dissuasive, in their eyes. It would help forward the work of a Dissolution of

The slaveholding members were warned of the consequences. Mr. Dayton, in an admirable speech, which was never answered, showed that, with the jury trial, the law might be tolerated. but, without it, violent resistance would be likely to ensue. Mr. Clay was so far impressed with this view as to provide in his bill, directly, for a delivery of the National Era within their limits- jury trial in the State whither the alleged fugitive should be conveyed. Mr. Webster in his bill, which was read in the Senate, and which he on the verdict of a jury. If the postmaster at said he had intended to offer, expressly provided for a trial by jury where the arrest was made. Mr. Fillmore has been censured for yielding his sanction to the act. On careful consideration we think the censure deserved. It virtually sets sioner at Boston would be bound by the law of aside the habens corpus; it denies the right of

his State, not to deliver up a fugitive, except trial by jury; it disallows the right of appeal; it Congress making it his duty to surrender him the hands of a single irresponsible person, temptwithout such trial. If State law may override ing him to a decision in favor of slavery, making Pederal law in Alabama, State law may override no provision against mistake, ignorance, or dis Federal law in Massachusetts. The Southern honesty. For these reasons, and because the act editor who would condemn a Commissioner in a was forced through the House of Representatives, free State for yielding obedience to a State, in under the screw of the previous question, without veto. The country would have justified so be- every branch of the civil polity.

neficent an exercise of authority, and the deep excitement which now threatens to widen the breach between the two sections would have been prevented.

The state of public opinion at the North has put him on the defensive. We find in the Republie of the 17th, an opinion by the Attorney General, Mr. Crittenden, sustaining the law. That journal makes the following announcement:

While this bill was before the President for his signature, the question arose in his mind which is presented by the resolution of the Boston meeting to which we have above referred. Did the bili take away the benefit of the habras the President would have been bound to return it to Congress with his objections. The President consequently referred the hill to the Attorney General for his opinion upon this point; and an elaborate and able opinion was given by that offi-cer, to the effect that 'there is nothing in the bill in question which conflicts with the Constitution, or suspends, or was intended to suspend, the privilege of the writ of hubens corpus. This opinion we have procured for publication, and it will be found in another column of this morning's pa-

The gist of the opinion of Mr. Crittenden is contained in the closing paragraphs, as follows: "The whole effect of the law may be thus briefly stated: Congress has constituted a tribunal, with exclusive jurisdiction, to determine summarily, and without appeal, who are fugitives from service or labor under the second section of the fourth article of the Constitution, and to whom such service or labor is due. The judgment of every trivice or labor is due. The judgment of every trivice is of peopsity conclusive upon every other

Whenever this judgment is made to appear, it is conclusive of the right of the owner to retain in his custody the fugitive from his service, and to remove him back to the place or State from which he escaped. If it is shown upon the application of the fugitive for a writ of habeas cor-

the return, it discharges the writ, and restores or maintains the custody.

"This view of the law of this case is fully sustained by the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of Tobias Watkins, where the court refused to discharge, upon the ground that he was in custody under the sentence of a court of competent jurisdiction, and that judgment was conclusively upon them. (3 Pet.,

The expressions used in the last clause of the sixth section, that the certificate therein alluded to "shall prevent all molestation" of the persons to whom granted, "by any process issued," &c., probably mean only what the act of 1793 meant, by declaring a certificate under that act a sufficient warrant for the removal of a fugitive, and certainly do not mean a suspension of the habitas

and conclude by repeating my conviction that there is nothing in the bill in question which conflicts with the Constitution, or suspends, or was intended to suspend, the privilege of the writ of hubeas

The law may not formally suspend the writ of habens corpus, but everybody can see that it is so constructed as to make it of no effect whatsoever. A person held to service in Maryland, passes tion that, as he has been brought by his muster into a free State, he is no longer a slave, he leaves him. A warrant is issued for his arrest; he is brought before a commissioner, ignorant of the law, it may be, and totally irresponsible. The master swears that the fugitive is his slave, and escaped from his service. The irresponsible commissioner may receive what evidence he pleases-he may deem this testimony enough—he may issue his certificate at once, without giving the prisoner time to produce counter testimony, or allowing him the benefit of counsel. But this certificate, no matter on what insufficient evidence, in what hot haste, in what disregard of all usual forms, it may be issued, is conclusive. There can be no appeal. "If," in the language of Mr. Crittenden, "it is shown upon the application of the fugitive for a writ of habeas corpus, it prevents the issuing of the writ-if sioner, issued on ex parte testimony, overrides the habras corpus-cannot be reviewed, or in any way brought in question before any tribunal whatsover. It is sheer mockery to tell us that the habeas corpus is not suspended, when it is thus prac-

tically annulled. The law is a disgrace to the whole country. It should work the political damnation of every man who aided in its passage. It is an offence against Humanity, an affront to the freemen of the nation, a violation of the Constitution, a de testable act of despotism. It can do no good to the South; it can work nothing but evil to the North; it will prove a continual source of fierce agitation, embitter the feelings between the two sections of country, and promote the purposes of

CENSUS OF WASHINGTON.

The Intelligencer publishes the recent census Washington, as follows: White Free colored Wards Second 5017 1.540 354 6,969 2,741 Sixth 1,236 29.999 7.963 2.110 The census of Washington (the city) gave the following results: Whites-

- 8,644 1.713 Slaves - -- 23.35 Increase of whites in ten years - 13,165 Increase of free colored - - 3,155 65.6 - 397 Increase of slaves 23.1 Total increase - 16.717

The opinion that the number of slaves had de creased in the city, would seem from this to be unfounded; but we are told that the census of slaves in Washington, in 1810, was very loosely taken there being very many more than it represented. Much has been said about the alarming increase

been less than that of the whites. The rate of increase of the whole population is equal to that of most of the thriving cities of the Union, if we except Cincinnati St. Louis, and two

of the free colored people; but their increase has

or three more of that class. The census of 1840 and 1850, of Georgetown and Alexandria, are as follows:

Georgetown - - - 7,212 Alexandria - - 8,450 8,700 The increase in each is only a few hundreds. Solomos Foots, formerly a Representative from Vermont, has been elected U. S. Senator for

six years from that State, in the place of Mr.

Georgetown - -

Phelps, whose term of office will expire the third SOUTH CAROLINA .- The election in South Carolina has resulted in the choice of the same mem bers to the House of Representatives, with the ex-

ception of Mr. Holmes, who has been defeated by Judge BULLARD, the regular Whig candidate, has been elected in New Orleans, to serve out the unexpired term of Mr. Conrad, lately appointed Secretary of War.

The Constitutional Convention of Indiana assembled at Indianapolis on the 7th. G. W. Carr was chosen President

The CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM CONVENTION OF Virginia, met at Richmond last week. The Richmond Times says that it is already manifest preference to a Federal law, must condemn the any chance for discussion, deliberation, or amend-Postmaster at Eufala, and be prepared to sane- ment, the President ought to have interposed his will be almost numberless, and relating to nearly

THE NEW YORK SECEDING WHIGS.

The Seceding Whigs of New York held their Convention last Thursday at Utica. Mr. Granger presided. The rejected resolutions of Mr. Duer were adopted, together with some others of the same stripe. They also resolved that-

"Having confidence in the integrity, ability, and sound Whig principles of the gentlemen placed in nomination by the Syracuse Convention and those gentlemen not being pledged expressly or impliedly to the support of the principles d clared by that Convention; believing, from the public declarations of some and the known opinions of others, that the course pursued by the majority of that body does not meet with their ap-

They would therefore recommend them to the support of the Whigs of the State.

One of Mother Goose's melodies aptly illus trates the movements of these sagacious gentle-There was a man in our town

> And he was wondrous wise: He jumped into a bramble bush And scratched out both his eyes But when he found his eyes were out

With all his might and main He jumped into another bush, And scratched them in again

MISREPRESENTATION.

The Washington Union grossly misrepresent the state of things at the North. It says, that

protest against the Fugitive Slave law consisted nal created by this act is conclusive upon all tri- of four thousand negroes, over whom Charles Francis Adams presided! This is untrue. The meeting was composed of the white citizens of Boston chiefly; and of course many colored persons, as being specially interested, were in attendance. Richard H. Dana, author of "Two Years before the Mast," read a letter from Josiah Quincy, who stated that when the Constitution was adopted, the people of Massachusetts were under the impression that the clause relating to fugitives from service was to be construed and enforced according to the Constitution of the State of Massachusetts.

> The Union persists in designating all the meet ings at the North in opposition to the law, as assemblages of fugitives and Abolitionists. It knows better. The meetings are composed of citizens without distinction of party. Indignation at the law pervades all classes.

The editor of the Union is lamentably ignorant of the institutions of the North, of the character of its People, and of the state of sentiment among --

NON-INTERCOURSE.

The policy of Non-Intercourse with the North is strongly insisted upon in some parts of the South. Some of the planters are pledging themselves not to employ Northern coasters or countenance the settlement among them of Northern laborers with his master into Pennsylvania. On informa- not to deal with any merchant, or send their chil dren to any teacher not known to be entirely Southern in all his feelings and opinions.

At the Hinds County (Miss.) Mass Meeting, the following resolutions introduced by Col. TARPLEY, were unanimously adopted :

"3. Resolved, That we will not transact any business, (either by the shipment of cotton to, or the purchase of goods from,) with any merchant in the city of New Orleans, who is known to be a Free-Soiler in his sentiments, or unless his long residence in the South and known opinions have identified him with the South.

"4. Resolved, That we will employ no school teachers, or patronize any school under the management of any person or persons, who are not known to be wholly Southern in all their feelings and opinions, as we are unwilling to subject our children to the taint of corruption, by placing them under the influence of those who claim it as a religious merit to aid in the destruction of Southern institutions

A large number of planters of St. Bartholomew's parish, S. C., assembled at Walterborough | lest, died in a short time. The Government has

" Resolved, That we, the undersigned, as a po tion of the citizens of St. Bartholomew's parish, who send our produce to market and receive our goods and supplies by water carriage, pledge our selves most solemnly, not to employ any coaster owned or manned by a citizen or citizens of any Non-slaveholding State, for any purpose whatever. Resolved, That in the present political condi-

tion of the country, it is contrary to the interests of South Carolina to patronize or encourage the transitory residence of hired laborers from the North amongst us, and that we will use all the neans in our power to prevent it.
"Resolved, That a Committee of Eight be an

ointed to communicate with planters absent from the meeting, for the purpose of procuring their signatures to the above pledge." The Charleston Mercury, in a late number, says: Captain Couklin, who arrived here recently

who has been employed for the last fifteen years in bringing Rice from Santee to this city, was yesterday informed by his old employers that they would give him no more patronage,—and this from no dissatisfaction with him, but for the sake of a principle which they had approved and felt bound had as strong claims as Capt. Conklin, to be made an exception to the rule, on account of his long employment in the trade, and the uniform satis-faction he had given. But the feeling was that there should be no exceptions; that the rule should be inflexible, and the exclusion universal."

The New York Journal of Commerce, that highminded organ of the Commercial Interest, directs the attention of Northern Capitalists and Merchants to these movements, warning them that they will be made to suffer in their pockets, unless they put down Abolitionism, and show themselves true to Slaveholding interests.

POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN MASSACHUSETTS.

We observe that the Free Soil Men and Dem crats are uniting in several counties on the same tickets for senators and representatives—the object being to secure an Opposition majority in the Legislature, and thereby control the election of United States Senator. Mr. Webster may be thanked for this movement. The Free Soil men in Boston, have started a

Campaign paper, called The Free-Soiler, to be issued three times a week. In the 9th District, Mr. O. FOWLER has been renominated by the Whigs and Free-Soilers. He

is a very worthy man, and deserves the confidence of every Anti-Slavery voter. HORACE MANN, we rejoice to see, is renominat-

ed by the Free-Soilers. He does not belong to their organization, but he is altogether worthy of their support. The Whigs have also renominated him-reluctantly, it is said.

Mr. PALFREY, we rejoice to see, renominated. The Boston Atlas is evidently apprehensive of losing the Legislature. It says:

"Now then, how is it as regards the Legisla ture, upon which so much depends? Last year the Whigs elected Senators by the people—in Suffolk 5, Norfolk 3, Nantucket 1, Hampshire 2, Essex 5, Bristol 3, Barnstable 2, making 21 in all which is a majority of two of the whole board. The amalgamation ticket for Senators prevailed— in Worcester 5, Middlesex 6, Plymouth 2, making 13 members. In Berkshire 2, Franklin 2, and Hampden 2-6 in all-there was no choice, and Whigs were afterwards elected by the Legisla-

"The case stood last year as follows: Whige 21, amalgamation 13, no choice 6. How will it be this year?
"The Whigs are sure to elect Senators by the

people in the following counties the present year Suffolk, Nantucket, Barnstable, and Hampshire which gives us eleven members. The coalition are sure to elect in Worcester, and have the best chances in Middlesex and Plymouth, which would give them what they had last year, namely, thirteen members.

"Now, then, how is it in the other counties We shall state facts, and our Whig friends may see the chances of success or defeat, as well as ourselves. Last year, the five Whig Senators were elected in Essex county by about 200 majority, out of about 14,000 votes. The three Norfolk county Whig Senators were elected by less than 100 majority, in a poll of about 9,000 votes. And the Bristol county Whig Senators were elected by about 200 majority, in a poll of 7,500 votes. The per centage is very small, and is not reliable, small as it is, without active exertion, and unremitting it is, without active exertion, and unre labor. If the parties unite in Franklin and Hamp-den counties, they will elect their coalition Senators, which would give them sixteen Senators to begin

with. If they should carry Essex county, they would have a majority of the Senate. Or if they should carry Norfolk and Berkshire, which are very close counties, and lose Essex, they would have a m

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE

LONDON, October 4, 1850 To the Editor of the National Era:

The ship "North Star," has just returned from the Arctic regions, after wintering in Walstonholme Sound, and leaving provisions at certain points for Sir John Franklin and party, or for the parties in search of him, should they need provisions. Advices by the "North Star" have been received by the Secretary of the Admiralty from Sir John Ross.

I know with what interest America watches for any news from the intrepid navigator, Sir John Franklin, as well as the no less intrepid men who have risked so much in search of him. It seems then, that the ships under the command of Sir John Ross have touched at Walstonholme Sound, lat itude 76° 34' north, longitude 69° 30' Arst, and that the natives on shore communicated to the interpreter of the ship the following story: That in the winter of 1846, ships appeared in the

sound, broken up with ice, or so much broken as to compel the crews to leave them for the shore whereupon they were attacked by a warlike tribe of savages, and many of them killed. Those who were left were without balls to their muskets, and were, one after another, dispatched. This story is not credited by Sir John Ross or any of the per-- dans shore, no relics were discovered corroborative of the melancholy story. What the object of the na-

a further search for the lost sailor among the horrors of the Arctic sea. Sir John Ross was joined, a few days before the date of his communications, by Mr. Grinnell's schooners of discovery.

You are perhaps aware that after the Peace

Congress broke up at Frankfort, Joseph Sturge

and Frederick Wheeler, of England, and Elihu

tives could be, in inventing such a story, no one

can imagine; it may be, that it was coined from

the interpreter's brain, who was ready to relinquish

Burritt, of America, went to the seat of the Schleswig-Holstein war, in Denmark. They have just made their report. They recently invited the attention of both of the belligerent parties to a treaty of alliance between Denmark and the Duchies, bearing date of 1533, and which has been twice renewed since. This treaty, it seems, provides a Court of Arbitration, to settle all such questions as the one the two parties are now fight inpover. I do not see from the report what sort of a Court of Arbitration is provided by the treaty, nor how with it, a war ensued upon a misunder-standing between the two Powers. Florence, the Minister of Foreign Affairs at Kiel, has appoint ed a gentleman to meet whoever the Danish Gov. ernment will select to discuss the matter, and the three philanthropists are sanguine of success. I am not in a position to decide, but am afraid the two peoples will not relinquish the decision into the hands of individuals. The Times in its usual character treats the whole movement on the part of Messrs. Sturge, Burritt, and Wheeler, as a piece of mere moonshine, and endeavors to talk sarcastically about Mr. Burritt.

A murder has just been committed at Trimley. in Surrey, attended by such frightful circumstances as to shock the nation. The press is full of it. A Church of England clergyman and his wife were awaked at dead midnight by the presence of masked assassins in their bedchamber. The man leaped for the fire-place, to grasp an iron poker, and was shot in the abdomen. His wife, though several times told that if she stirred she should be shot dead, seized a hand-bell which awoke the servants, and the murderers fled. They were pursued, but nothing has been of them since. The clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Haloffenders. The assassins were exceedingly coc in their operations, for they stole a lot of port wine, in bottles, which they drank, not far from

The Court is vet at Balmoral in Scotland but will return to London the latter part of next week. It seems that the Queen has been highly delighted with her stay in Scotland; so much. that she has prolonged it much beyond the time she had first set upon as the day of return. Among those who have been particularly favored with her society is the name of Edwin Landseer. the distinguished painter, now Sir Edwin Land-

The different members of Government are scattered over the country, engaged in the pleasures of autumnal shooting. The Premier, Lord John Russell, is at his country seat with his family. Sir George Grey is in attendance upon the Queen, and all Parliament is absent from town.

Very few literary persons are yet in town, but they are one by one coming back. The Howitts returned from Yorkshire last week, and were never in better health. William Howitt's new work meets with capital success; and if he is persuaded to publish a work of fiction, the manuscript of which yet lies in his bands, I am sure it will meet with a good reception, both in England and America. Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall are again back at their " Rosery" in Old Brompton. When Jenny Lind was in London, she had a house not far from Mrs. Hall, and the authoress and Nightingale were very intimate.

Charles Dickens is closing up his "Davey Copperfield." The "Household Words" has attained a large circulation already, and will be an excellent speculation. If he is paid as liberally for conducting the weekly as for his works of fiction, he need not complain if his publishers do make money out of the project. Eliza Cook's Journal has an immense circuls.

ion, and it is every week growing larger. Macaulay is diligently at work upon the concluding volumes of his History of England. He is now in his true position. He should always eschew politics, and stick to literature, where he is so truly great and magnificent.

Charles Knight is about to issue a mammoth edition of Shakspeare, in numbers, each number to contain forty illustrations. He has also just commenced a penny weekly, entitled " Cyclopedia f the Industry of all Nations?" It will be a handbook to the great Industrial Exhibition, and will be one of the most valuable works of the age.

Pently published, last week, a new edition of

Prescott's Critical and Historical Essays. Also, a work on geometry, by Seba Smith, an Ameri-Agnes Strickland publishes a work this week entitled "Historic Scenes;" and a son of the justly celebrated (in law and literature) Sin

Thomas Noon Talfourd, has given to the stage drama, which has been well received. I notice in the Irish newspapers, that news has been just received at Cork, from John Mitchell, the patriot-martyr. He was in tolerable health and spirits, and was given to much violent exercise, which in that climate was supposed to Me

very beneficial to one of his constitution We have just elected a new lord mayor in London-Alderman Musgrove; perhaps the first mayor of London for many years who has been at all liberal in his political principles. The new mayor, or mayor elect, is a Whig; but the old saying seems to me very true here, that "a Whig

in office is a Tory."

The British Museum is just completed, and the papers are rejoicing over the fact. it seems, however, that a portion of the truly chaste and beautiful structure has been given up to residences for the officials of the place. This excites the indignation of John Bull. To use such a national building to feed and sleep a host of lacqueys in is not to be borne. The press is wide awake on the subject, and the nuisance will, I presume, be soon abated. Talking of the Museum, reminds me that one day this week several cho for the Museum. Among other things, a bull with a man's head and a dragon's wings, and weighing twelve tons, and a lion weighing eight tons. Those of your readers who have read "Layard's Nineveh," will be interested in this.